#### Residual Fire Retardant

To clean, simply hose off surfaces that have red pigment. You may notice some residual red fire



retardant on your property. Fire retardant is a mixture of water, fertilizer, and a red pigment. It won't harm your children or pets if contacting the retardant before washing it.

#### **Documents and Records**

Here is a **Checklist** of documents you may need to replace if they are destroyed or missing.

□ Birth certificates	□ School records
□ Passports	□ Title to deeds
☐ Driver's licenses	☐ Military discharge papers
□ Social Security cards	□ Stocks and bonds
☐ Citizenship records	□ Automobile titles
☐ Credit cards	□ Warranties
□ Checkbooks/statements	□ Wills
☐ Medical Records	□ Military identification
☐ Medical insurance cards	cards
□ Insurance policies	□ Bank books
☐ Income tax records	□ Payment books
☐ Marriage/divorce papers	☐ Animal registration paper
□ Prepaid burial contracts	and vaccination records

**Social services and welfare** clients: notify your caseworkers if identification cards for check cashing, medical care or food stamps have been destroyed.

**Birth/death records** replacement assistance: visit www.azdhs.gov/vitalrcd/ or contact:

Arizona Department of Health Services Office of Vital Records 1818 West Adams Street Phoenix, AZ 85007 602-364-1300

**Passport** replacement assistance: call the U.S. Post Office at 1-800-275-8777.

**Marriage/divorce** records: call your county records department.

**Social Security Card** information: call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

# **Money Replacement**

Damaged paper money or coins may be redeemable. Mail money via registered mail, return receipt requested. Contact:

Department of Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Office of Currency Standards I-866-575-2361; www.bep.treas.gov/section.cff/8/39

If your **U.S. Savings Bonds** are lost or damaged, contact the Federal Reserve Banks to request replacement instructions:

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis PO Box 9109 Minneapolis, MN 55480 I-800-553-2663

# **Temporary Housing**

If your house is uninhabitable and you have no place to go, contact the American Red Cross by county:

Grand Canyon Chapter Apache, Coconino, Gila, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, Yavapai, Yuma I-800-842-7349 or 602-336-6660 www.arc-grandcanyon.axxiomportal.com/

Southern Arizona Chapter Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz I-800-341-6943 or 520-318-6740 http://www.sazredcross.org/

# In Difficult Times...

During stressful times of loss and uncertainties, the Arizona Department of Health Services has available contact information for counseling services by county:

Yuma, La Paz, Pinal, Gila Cenpatico Behavioral Health of Arizona I-866-495-6738

Maricopa, Pima, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, Cochise Value Options (VO), Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) 1-800-771-9889

Mohave, Coconino, Apache, Navajo, Yavapai Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) I-800-640-2123

Gila River Gila River Regional Behavioral Health Authority 602-528-7135

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Pascua Yaqui Regional Behavioral Health Authority 520-883-5000

For additional information, visit: www.az211.gov

# What to Do After a Fire



The State of Arizona and your local governments sincerely regret the terrible tragedy and loss you have experienced due to the fire.

Fires are very traumatic events. Most people have little experience dealing with the aftermath of a significant fire. This brochure includes information that may be helpful to you in this time of crisis. Remember that you are not alone when disaster strikes. Your neighbors, your community, local fire departments, your county and the agencies of the State of Arizona are available to provide you aid and comfort to the best of their abilities.



This brochure was produced by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health. (602) 364-3118; www.azdhs.gov Some of the content of this brochure originally was prepared by Jefferson County, State of Colorado, and is used with permission.

# What to do After a Fire

Look in the Yellow Pages under fire and water damage restoration. When severe damages occur to buildings, it may be worthwhile to have professionals provide estimates associated with cleaning up costs.

Check with your insurance company to determine whether this type of service is covered by your policy and if the insurer will either accept billing from the restoration company or will reimburse you.

# **Call Your Insurance Carrier Right Away**

**Don't settle claims or sign releases too quickly.** Confirm they will take care of security matters, i.e., boarding up your property, or call your landlord, who can contact insurance carriers.

Take your time and make sure your agent knows of all your losses, since it may be difficult to recall everything at once. Much more laundry and cleaning might be necessary due to smoky odors and fine smoke particles than first expected.

Obtain a copy of the fire report from your local fire department, since it may be required by your insurance agent

#### **Lost Power and Utilities**



Don't attempt to turn on the gas yourself. Firefighters will immediately shut off gas and electricity. Utilities will remain off until the utility company determines it is safe to restore service.

Don't run wet appliances until a professional has checked them. Damage, improper grounding or short-circuiting may cause property damage or safety hazards.

# Food and Water Safety

**Keep cold foods cold.** Closed freezers usually keep food frozen for at least I day, up to 3 days. A refrigerator is less able to keep foods cool.



If power remains off, wrap frozen items in blankets or newspapers, pack in boxes, and move to a locker or a friend's freezer.

Discard the food, if it may have been held above 41°F for more than 4 hours.

Make sure water is safe to drink. Boil your water unless your water company announces that water is safe to drink. Information regarding private wells is available at www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/download/privatewells.pdf

# **Water Damage**

Check for water beneath vinyl flooring. It can cause odors, warp the supporting wood, and eventually cause the floor to lift. Call a flooring dealer for suggestions to remove or loosen the remaining adhesive without damaging the covering. After you remove the covering, let wood dry thoroughly before replacing.

Allow rugs and carpets to dry thoroughly. Lay them flat and expose to warm, dry, circulating air. Fans help speed drying. Even though the surface may appear dry, moisture remaining at the base of the tufts can cause a rug or carpet to rot. Clean dried throw rugs by beating, sweeping, or vacuuming, and then shampooing. For more information, call a carpet dealer or installer.

# Assess damaged wood furniture and fixtures since they may be salvageable.

- Clean off mud and dirt. Scrub with a soft brush and mild cleaning solutions
- Wipe dry with a soft cloth
- Dry wood thoroughly to prevent mold and decay; don't dry in sun to prevent warping and twisting
- Open doors, windows and drawers; use fans to circulate air
- Tips to remove white spots or film
  - Rub the wood surface with a 4/0 steel wool pad dipped in liquid polishing wax. Wipe with a soft cloth and buff

- Rub wood surface with a cloth soaked in ½ cup house hold ammonia per ½ cup water solution; wipe dry and polish with wax, or rub with a cloth soaked in a solution of ½ cup linseed oil

To remove mildew stains from clothing, wash the stain with soap and water. Rinse and dry in the sun. If still stained, use lemon juice and salt; or try one tablespoon bleach to one pint lukewarm water. Test colored garments before using any treatment.

**NEVER** mix chlorine bleach with anything other than water or laundry detergent. Chlorine bleach mixed with ammonia or other chemicals can result in toxic fumes with serious, potentially fatal results.

### Fire and Ash Damage

Wood ash is a combination of nutrients and minerals left behind by burned wood. The ash from vegetation can be messy, but not harmful. However, ash from a home or garage that has burned may be harmful, because of chemicals and consumer products in the home or garage. Wet the ash before removing it to avoid creating a potentially harmful dust.

Wash cooking utensils, such as pots, pans, and flatware with soapy water, rinse, and polish with a fine powder cleanser. Clean copper and brass with salt sprinkled on a vinegar-saturated cloth.

# **Smoke Damage**

Wash smoke odor and soot from clothing. This formula is safe for bleach-safe clothing:

4-6 teaspoons laundry detergent I cup household chlorine bleach I gallon water

Mix well; add clothes; rinse with clear water; and dry well.

# **Propane and Household Chemicals**

Ensure that your propane tanks are secure and not leaking. Check to make sure the lines have not been damaged by fire. If the fire may have damaged the tank or lines, don't use the propane and call your propane service provider.

Properly dispose of household chemicals if the original containers or labels are damaged. Do not transfer chemicals to new containers.